

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03 SOE-02 AF-10
ARA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: AUGUST 7 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

1. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT GEN. RICHARD H. ELLIS,
CHIEF OF STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND, HAS RECOMMENDED TO DEFENSE
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SECRETARY BROWN THAT "FULL-SCALE DEVELOPMENT" OF MOBILE
MX MISSILE BEGIN THIS FALL. ELLIS DESCRIBED MX AS "MOST
CAPABLE ADVANCED MISSILE THAT AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CAN
PROVIDE." WHILE EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF MOBILE MISSILE,
ELLIS ALSO STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CURRENT SALT NEGOTIATIONS.
"TO ME," ELLIS SAID, "ALTERNATIVES TO SALT AGREEMENT ARE
UNACCEPTABLE: APPEASEMENT, ECONOMIC EXHAUSTION RESULTING

FROM AN ARMS RACE OR NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST., TIMES SAID ELLIS SEES AS KEY TO ANY WORKABLE STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT IMPROVEMENT OF SATELLITE VERIFICATION TECHNOLOGY.

2. EDITORIAL IN AUGUST ISSUE OF MAGAZINE ,RETIRED OFFICER" SAID "FRUSTRATING AS FIVE YEARS OF (MBFR) NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN, IT IS REASSURING THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO BE TAKING LONG, HARD LOOK AT SOVIET COUNTEROFFER. REMEMBERING RECENT CHARGES OF LACK OF MILITARY INPUT INTO MILITARY-POLITICAL DECISIONS, IT IS HOPED THIS ONE WILL BE FULLY COORDINATED -- AT HOME AND ABROAD. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THIS SOVIET RESPONSE TO OUR EARLIER MBFR PROPOSALS, WHILE STILL ONLY TALK, SHOULD BLUNT NATO DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSE."

3. AIR FORCE MAGAZINE (AUGUST) SAID ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY ON "ZERO YIELD" CTB TREATY, "OSTENSIBLY CAST IN CONCRETE WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER SIGNED PDM-38 ON MAY 20, 1978, WITHOUT CONCURRENCE BY EITHER JCS OR DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, IS UNDERGOING AN AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL." MAGAZINE SAID HIGHLY PLACED SOURCE REPORTED THAT SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS IN A MID-JUNE MEETING ENERGY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD REQUESTED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER REACHED CONCLUSION THAT ESSENTIAL INFORMATION CONCERNING EFFECTS OF HALTING ALL NUCLEAR TESTING HAD NOT REACHED PRESIDENT. MAGAZINE SAID THAT INFORMATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO CONGRESSIONAL COM-
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MITTEES BY PENTAGON AND DOE WITNESSES. SPECIFICALLY, MAGAZINE SAID, PRESIDENT DID NOT APPEAR READ IN ON WHY DOE AND JCS CONSIDER "ZERO YIELD, TEST BAN OR MORATORIUM UNVERIFIABLE. "NEITHER DID HE SEEM TO BE AWARE OF FACT THAT SOVIET N-GOTIA-ORSHAD REJECTED CENTRAL SAFEGUARD REQUESTED BY U.S. AS UNACCEPTABLY INTRUSIVE. THIS WOULD INVOLVE PLACING SOME 30 TELESEISMIC ARRAYS ON RUSSIAN TERRITORY. ONLY MONITORING SCHEME ACCEPTABLE TO SOVIETS IS SHARING DATA FROM SOME FIVE OR SIX SOVIET-BUILT SEISMIC DETECTORS, AN ARRANGEMENT DEEMED WHOLLY INADEQUATE BY MOST U.S. EXPERTS." MAGAZINE SAID PERSUASIVENESS OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED BY SCHLESINGER AND TWO DOE LAB DIRECTORS APPEARS TO HAVE CAUSED CHANGES IN ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THIS ISSUE OF "PERVASIVE IMPORTANCE TO NATIONAL DEFENSE." MAGAZINE SAID WHITE HOUSE, AT SPECIAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING IN LATE JUNE, DECIDED TO LIMIT ANY CTB TREATY TO THREE RATHER THAN FIVE YEARS, AND DECREED THAT RENEWAL THEREAFTER WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL OF BOTH EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND SENATE. "SAME CABINET-LEVEL MEETING ALSO DECIDED TO INSIST ON NEED OF CONTINUING LOW-YIELD "CONTROLLED TESTING' -- AT LEVEL OF FEW HUNDRED POUNDS -- EVEN THOUGH PAUL WARNKE, DIRECTOR OF ACDA, REPORTEDLY HAD

THREATENED TO RESIGN IF ADMINISTRATION RENEGED ON 'ZERO YIELD.'"

4. AIR FORCE MAGAZINE ALSO SAID REPORTEDLY "VERY TOUGH" LETTER FROM DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN HAS STIFFENED ADMINISTRATION'S STANCE REGARDING RANGE LIMITATIONS FOR AIR-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES AT SALT NEGOTIATIONS. BROWN "PERSUASIVELY ARGUED" THAT SO-CALLED "ODOMETER" RANGE MUST BE PEGGED AT 40 PERCENT ABOVE STRAIGHT LINE LIMIT OF THESE WEAPONS. REASON IS THAT CRUISE MISSILES MUST FLY ZIGZAG PATH. IN ORDER TO PENETRATE 2,500 KILOMETERS -- PROPOSED SALT TWO PROTOCOL LIMIT -- THEIR ACTUAL FLYING RANGE MUST BE AT LEAST 40 PERCENT GREATER, MAGAZINE

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POINTED OUT.

5. IN ANOTHER ARTICLE, AIR FORCE MAGAZINE SAID ACDA DIRECTOR WARNKE'S CAMPAIGN -- SUPPORTED BY KEY STATE DEPARTMENT FIGURES -- TO DECLARE MORATORIUM ON PRODUCING SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS, PRINCIPAL ELEMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, "HAS GONE SOUR IN LIGHT OF FORCEFUL OPPOSITION BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS." CRUX IS THAT HALF-LIFE OF SOME SPECIAL NUCLEAR MATERIALS IS 12 YEARS. AS WARHEADS CONTAINING THESE MATERIALS REACH HALF-LIFE POINT, WEAKENING U.S. DETERRENCE CAPABILITIES WOULD INVITE NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BY ALLIED NATIONS AND INDUCE STRATEGIC INSTABILITY, MAGAZINE SAID. FY '79 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THESE MATERIALS IS ABOUT 904 MILLION DOLLARS, COMPARED TO ABOUT 675 MILLION DOLLARS LAST YEAR. CHRISTOPHER

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